

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Deal Island Historic District Survey Number: S-371

Project: _____ Agency: _____

Site visit by MHT Staff: ☐ no ☒ yes Name Peter Kurtz Date 05/08/1996

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The area within the village of Deal Island determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as an historic district extends along Deal Island Road (MD 332) from Hotel Road to Edelen-Webster Road on the west and Lola Wheatly Road on the east. The village has a unique character that is defined generally by its environmental and built setting. The district is characterized by resources reflecting the period ca. 1870-ca. 1930, primarily two-and 2-1/2-story gable-roofed frame houses, two or three bays wide, set on small lots lining both sides of Deal Island Road. Despite some contemporary infill, this area of the village of Deal Island retains sufficient cohesiveness and architectural integrity to make it a likely National Register-eligible historic district.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project Review and Compliance

Prepared by: Peter Kurtz

Kimberly P. Williams June 6, 1996
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: ☒ yes ☐ no ☐ not applicable
Quanda Redman 6-13-96
Reviewer, NR program Date

Handwritten initials

Survey No. sp- 371

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eastern Shore	(all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Shore	(Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
<input type="checkbox"/> Piedmont	(Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Maryland	(Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

<input type="checkbox"/> Paleo-Indian	10000-7500 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Archaic	7500-6000 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Middle Archaic	6000-4000 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Late Archaic	4000-2000 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Woodland	2000-500 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Middle Woodland	500 B.C. - A.D. 900
<input type="checkbox"/> Late Woodland/Archaic	A.D. 900-1600
<input type="checkbox"/> Contact and Settlement	A.D. 1570-1750
<input type="checkbox"/> Rural Agrarian Intensification	A.D. 1680-1815
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural-Industrial Transition	A.D. 1815-1870
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial/Urban Dominance	A.D. 1870-1930
<input type="checkbox"/> Modern Period	A.D. 1930-Present
<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown Period (<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> historic)	

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

<input type="checkbox"/> Subsistence
<input type="checkbox"/> Settlement
<input type="checkbox"/> Political
<input type="checkbox"/> Demographic
<input type="checkbox"/> Religion
<input type="checkbox"/> Technology
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Adaptation

IV. Historic Period Themes:

<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
<input type="checkbox"/> Government/Law
<input type="checkbox"/> Military
<input type="checkbox"/> Religion
<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Educational/Cultural
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: District

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Residential/Single Dwellings

Known Design Source: _____

Memo

May 13, 1996

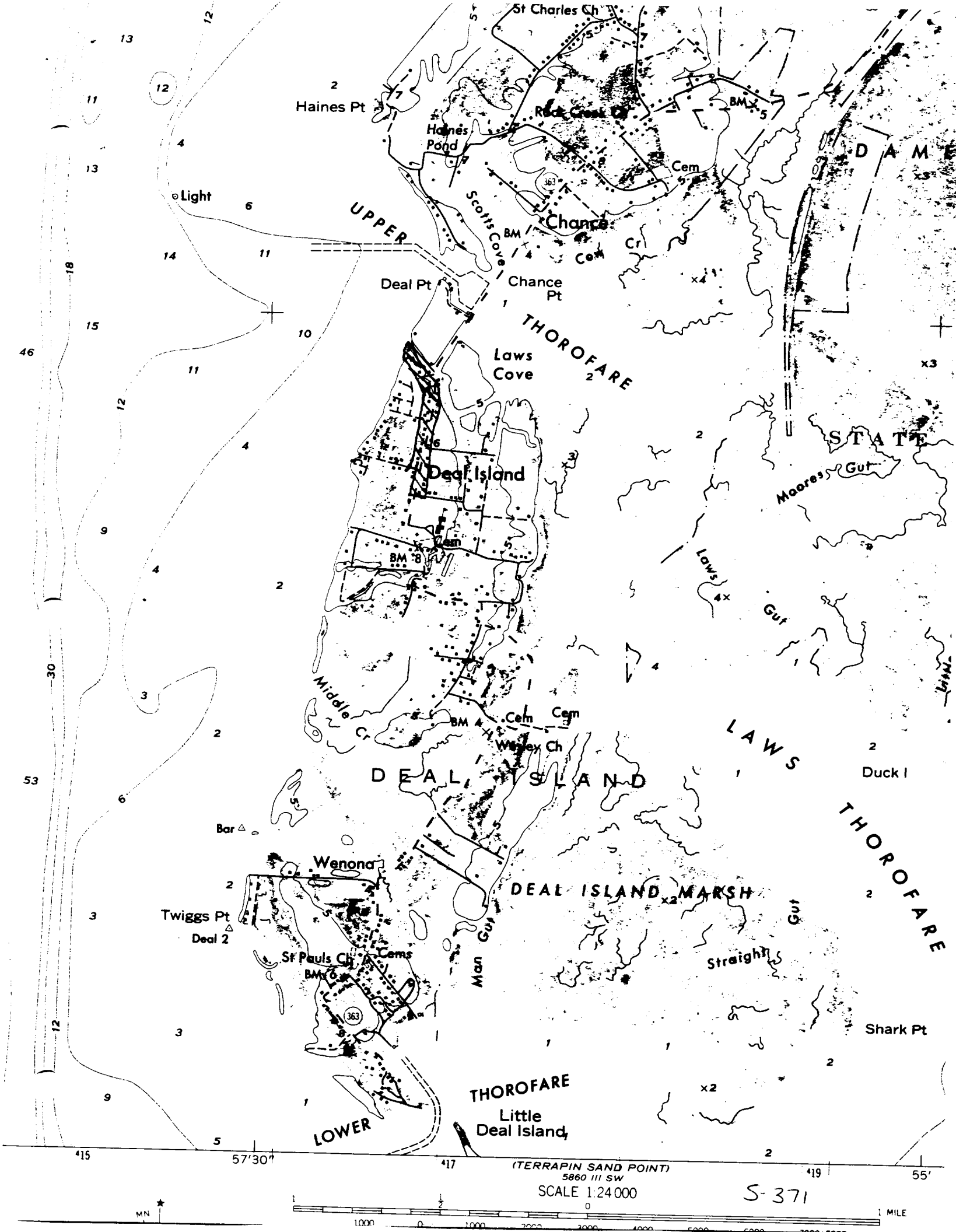
To: JoEllen Freese and file

From: Peter Kurtze

Re: Deal Island

On May 8 I made a site visit to Deal Island and Wenona to gain an impression of the potential National Register eligibility of these communities. The entire island clearly has a unique character; however, it appears that the nature of this character is largely environmental and evolutionary rather than strictly historic (one has a strong sense of "place," but not necessarily "time and place"). The cumulative effect of numerous alterations--typically artificial siding, replacement windows, replacement porch posts, and additions--and later infill structures (mainly small post-WW II Cape Cod and ranch houses) has compromised the integrity of the area in terms of National Register criteria.

I do believe that an area within the village of Deal Island does retain sufficient physical cohesiveness and architectural integrity to make it a likely National Register-eligible historic district. This area extends along Deal Island Road (MD 332) from Hotel Road to Edelen-Webster Road on the West and Lola Wheatley Road on the East.



S-371

Nineteenth and twentieth centuries

Deal Island

public and private

Deal Island, first known as "Devil's Island" and later spelled "Deil's Island," was settled during the seventeenth century. Land patents were issued as early as 1673 for "Graves End," and 1675 for "North Foreland." Additional patents were executed through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and as recent as 1923 for a tract known as "Two Sisters."

During the eighteenth century the island tracts were owned by various individuals including Captain Nehemiah King of "Beverly," who owned three tracts, "all on Devil's Island." His resident tenants, John Webster and Isaac Gibson, occupied modest frame or sawed log houses measuring twenty feet by sixteen feet. Sited on a tract called "Purgatory" in 1798 was the dwelling of Nicholas Roe, a single story, twenty foot by 18 foot brick house. Also located near the Roe house were support buildings including a fourteen by twelve foot kitchen, a nine foot square smoke house, and a ten foot by six foot corn house.

One of the highest valued properties on the island during the last years of the eighteenth century was the plantation of Reverend David Wallace, assessed for \$1370. His dwelling was a single story frame house that measured thirty-two feet across by twenty feet deep. Along with the standard outbuildings, three tenant houses were also assessed on the seven-hundred acre plantation. Reverend David Wallace's dwelling is also remembered as the location of many island marriages and religious meetings. The Wallace house site is improved presently by the Federal/Greek Revival style dwelling built by Captain William Price around 1840.

By the second half of the nineteenth century, "Deil's Island (the v was dropped from Devil's as a result of the strict Methodism that spread throughout the island) had expanded into a bay-oriented community of one-thousand residents. The island was reached by a ferry which crossed Law's Thoroughfare until a wooden bridge was erected around 1870.

The fourth quarter of the nineteenth century brought additional growth, and by the last years of the nineteenth century, Deals Island was the second largest community in Somerset County. Boasting a population of 1,500 residents, the island was served by five general stores, two blacksmiths, a flour and grist mill, a sail loft, and a veterinary surgeon. By the turn of the century a large hotel and store complex operated by Captain Levin Anderson stood at the north end of the island near the quarter-mile long steamboat wharf. During the early twentieth century canning factories as well as an ice plant were erected near the wharf, and by 1912 a branch of the Bank of Somerset was established.

The first decades of the twentieth century also brought an increased population which totaled 2,500 by the 1930s. However, a devastating hurricane ravaged island property in 1933, after which the island entered a period of slow decline through the middle years of the century. Recently, increased interest in Deal Island as a retirement community has helped in stabilizing the island population.

The oldest house sited on the island is the old Bradshaw house, located on the southeastern periphery of the principal community. The two-story, two-room plan Federal style house dates to the first decades of the nineteenth century. The only commercial buildings to survive include the old Deal Island Bank and the Deal Island barber shop in the main village community.

Best known, however, are the Joshua Thomas Chapel and the St. Johns M. E. Church. The antebellum Greek Revival chapel housed the island's early Methodist congregation. Reverend Joshua, long called the "Parson of the Islands," served the Deal Island congregation as well as Somerset County in general, and at his death in 1853 he was buried at the corner of the chapel. The main church is a large Gothic Revival frame structure executed with attention to fine interior detail.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. S-371

Magi No. 2003715638

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Deal Island Survey District

2. Location

street & number End of Md. 363, Deal Island Road ☐ not for publicationcity, town Deal Island ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Various Owners

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset Clerk of Court liber

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio

city, town Princess Anne state Md.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Deal Island Survey District description

The community of Deal Island is located^{at} the end of MD Route 363 (Deal Island Road) in Somerset County, Maryland. Separated geographically from the mainland by a watercourse known as Laws Thoroughfare, a two-lane wooden bridge currently connects the two land masses. Princess Anne, the county seat and the largest nearby town, is located approximately sixteen miles to the east.

Characterized by low, poorly drained soil surrounded by broad tidal marsh, Deal Island is surrounded by Tangier Sound to the south and west, and Laws and Upper Thoroughfare are located to the northth and east. Maryland Route 363 traverses the island from its northern tip to Wenona, the principal harbor on the island. The road snakes somewhat in an effort to follow the highest ground.

The buildings that define Deal Island include approximately one-hundred structures that face MD 363 or the few side streets located east and west of the main road. The houses are set relatively close to the road within ten to fifteen yards of the road shoulder. A few of the more prominent dwellings are sited farther back from the road or along a private lane. Consisting primarily of single family dwellings, the Deal Island community also has three church buildings, a fire hall, and a modern school.

The houses located on Deal Island largely date from the second half of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries when Deal Island prospered from the lucrative seafood industry. Similar to the other watermen communities in Somerset County, the house proportions tend to the smaller sized two-story, two- or three-bay frame dwellings with center or side halls. Brick pier foundations support the weatherboard frame that is covered by a steeply pitched gable roof. In some instances the houses retain original weatherboards, Victorian sash windows, and exterior decorative trim. In other cases the exteriors have been covered with artificial siding. Attached to the back of a small group of Deal Island houses is a semi-detached summer kitchen. Usually attached by a porch or hyphen, the kitchen is often one story high with a one room plan. The Isabella White house (S-369) is an exception with its two-story rear kitchen. The interiors are largely finished with plasters walls and late nineteenth-century woodwork. The Noah Webster house (s-45) is an exceptional house not following the standard waterman type dwelling. Two full stories of a center hall, double-pile house are covered by a modified mansard roof punctuated by Gothic arched dormers. The tee-plan service wing is treated in an identical manner.

8. Significance

Survey No. S-371

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

SIGNIFICANCE

Deal Island, Somerset County, Maryland is a moderately well-preserved watermen's community located on Tangier Sound. The modest single story or two-story frame houses are well maintained for the most part, although many have been covered with artificial siding. Several houses retain their historic integrity with exposed layers of weatherboard siding, original sash windows, and decorative trim. Located in Deal Island is a group of late nineteenth-century houses built with attached or semi-detached summer kitchens, a house form largely discarded in other parts of the Eastern Shore by the mid nineteenth century. This stepped appearance is especially evident with the Isabella White house (S-369), located at the south end of the community. The most significant religious sites in the community are the two churches, the Joshua Thomas Chapel and St. Johns Methodist Episcopal Church. The two buildings offer an interesting contrast between antebellum Greek Revival and postbellum Gothic Revival designs. The two church buildings also mark the large increase in membership between 1850 and the end of the century.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Deal Island, first known as Devil's Island and later spelled Deil's Island, time as the rest of Somerset County. Land patents were issued as early as 1673 for "Graves End," and 1675 for "North Foreland." Additional patents were executed through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and as recent as 1923 for a tract known as "Two Sisters."

During the eighteenth century the island tracts were owned by various individuals including Captain Nehemiah King of "Beverly," who owned three tracts, "all on Devil's Island." His resident tenants, John Webster and Isaac Gibson, occupied modest frame or sawed log houses measuring twenty by sixteen. Sited on a tract called, "Purgatory," in 1798 was the dwelling of Nicholas Roe, a single story, 20 by 18, brick structure with one window measuring 3'8 by 2'4". Also located around the Roe house were support buildings including a 14' by 12' kitchen, a 9' square smoke house, and a 10' by 6' corn house.

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PS-2746

One of the highest valued properties on the island during the last years of the eighteenth century was the plantation of Reverend David Wallace, assessed at \$1370. His dwelling was a single-story frame house which measured 32' by 20', while a kitchen (15' by 14'), a milk house (10' by 8'), a smoke house (10' by 10'), a barn (24' by 20' with 10' sheds on each side), and one corn house (16' by 7') surrounded the house. Three tenant houses were also assessed on the seven-hundred acre plantation. Reverend David Wallace's dwelling is also remembered as the location of many island marriages and religious meetings. The Wallace house site is occupied presently by the Federal/Greek Revival dwelling built by Captain William Price around 1840 (S-47).

By the second half of the nineteenth century Deil's Island, (The v was dropped from Devil's as a result of the strict Methodism that spread throught the island), had expanded into a bay-oriented community of one thousand residents. Deil's Island was reached by a ferry which crossed lwas Thoroughfare until a wooden bridge was erected around 1870. A description of the island was published by Adam Wallace in 1872,

Deal's (or as they were formerly called Devil's) Islands, are two in number and are situated to the northeast of Tangier, near the main, and not between the sound and the bay. The larger one, (on which there is a good sized Methodist Church, and where camp meetings have been held most of the years isnce 1828) is about three miles in length by one in width. It is a very productive soil, suitable for almost any species of grain, fruit, or vegetables. An immense quantity of sweet potatoes is raised there, as also a large yield of corn and some excellent wheat. But, the population like that on the smaller islands, has to depend more on the water than on the land for support.
(Wallace, pp. 13-14)

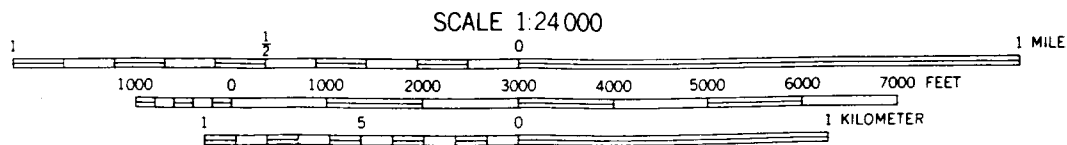
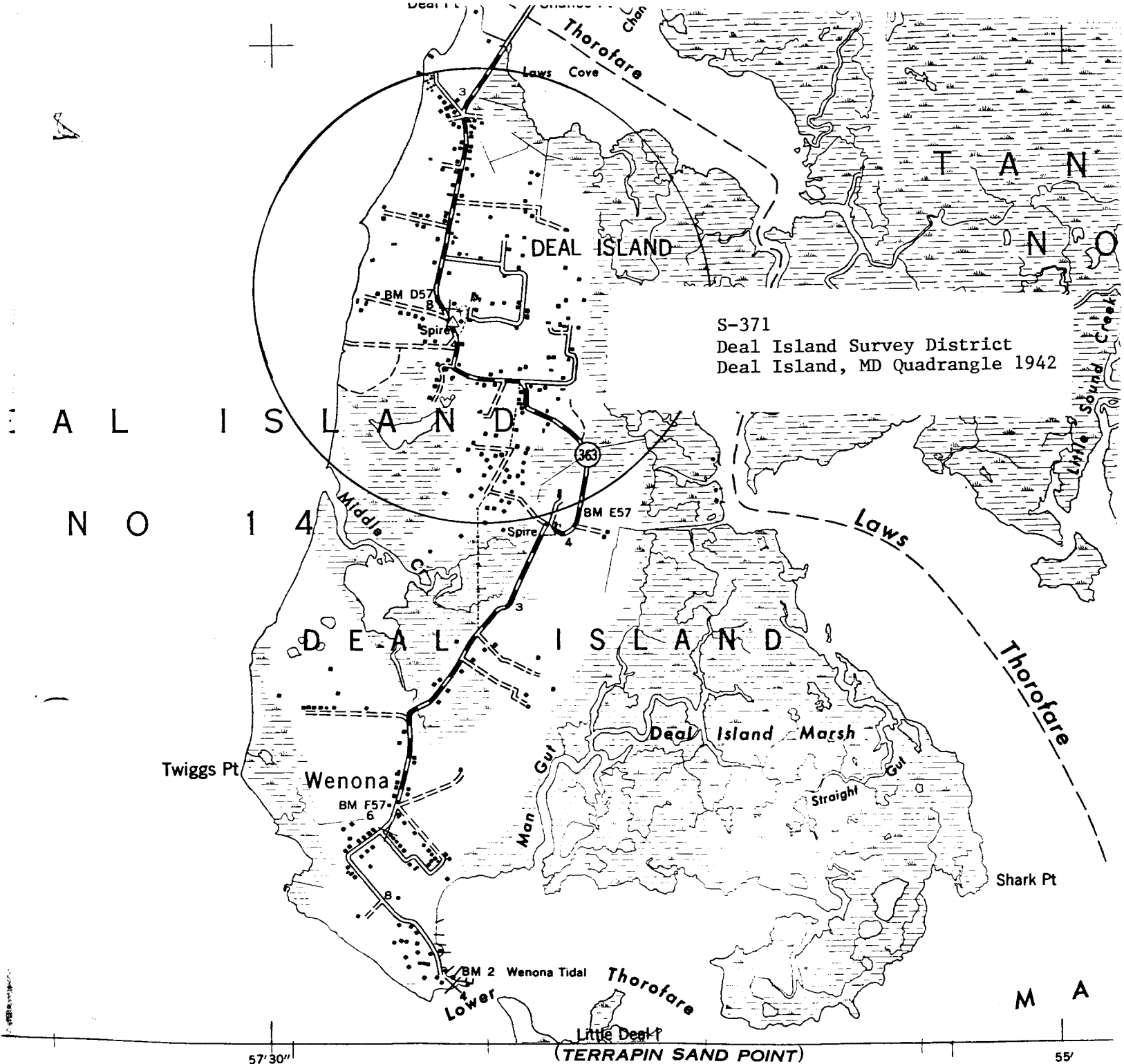
The fourth quarter of the nineteenth century brought additional growth, and by the last years of the nineteenth century, Deals Island was the second largest community in Somerset County. Boasting a population of 1,500 residents, the community was served by five general stores, two blacksmiths, a flour and grist mill, a sail loft, and a veterinary surgeon. By the turn of the century a large hotel and store complex operated by Captain Levin Anderson stood at the norht end of the island near the quarter-mile steamboat wharf. Along with the principal shipments of bay seafood additional business took advantage of the regular trips to Baltimore and other markets. During the early twentieth century canning factories as well as an ice plant were erected near the wharf, and by 1912 a branch of the Bank of Somerset was established.

The first decades of the twentieth century also brought an increased population which totaled 2,500 by the 1930s. However, a devastating hurricane ravaged island businesses and property in 1933, and the island entered a slow period of decline through the middle years of the century. Recently, increased interest in Deal Island as a retirement community has proved helpful is stablilizing the island population.

The oldest house sited within the vicinity of Deal Island is the old Bradshaw house (S-46) located on the southeastern periphery of the community. The two-story, two-room plan Federal style house dates to the first decades of the nineteenth century.

The only commercial buildings to survive in Deal Island include the old Deal Island Bank (S-366) and the Deal Island Barber Shop (S-368). The Deal Island Bank is the sole remaining brick structure, erected around 1912.

Centrally sited on a small knoll in Deal Island are the Joshua Thomas Chapel and the St. Johns M.E. Church. The antebellum Greek Revival chapel housed the island's early Methodist congregation, lead during the nineteenth century by Reverend Joshua Thomas, the "Parson of the Islands." Reverend Thomas traveled to Smith Island as well as ^{SOUTHERN} Somerset County in an effort to stabilize early, rural ^{MAIN} Methodist congregations. He is buried immediately south of the chapel. The church is a large Gothic Revival frame church executed with attention to fine interior detail. St. Johns is one of handful of Somerset County churches that retains a fully covered pressed tin interior.



MAXIMUM GROUND ELEVATION 8 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

10,000-FOOT GRID TICKS, MARYLAND PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM, SHOWN IN BLACK
1000-METER GRID TICKS, UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR SYSTEM, ZONE 18, SHOWN IN BLUE

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A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



Anderson's Store

5-371

Deal Island, Somerset Co., Md.

Documentary photograph, c. 1933

Negative/Md. Historical Trust



Anderson's Store S-371
Deal Island, Somerset Co., Md
Documentary photograph, c. 1910
Negative, Md Historical Trust



Deal Island Steamboat Wharf ⁵⁻³⁷¹
Deal Island, Somerset Co., Md
Documentary photograph, c. 1910
Negative/Md Historical Trust



Anderson's Store 5-371
Deal Island, Somerset County, Md
Documentary photograph, c. 1910
Negative/Md Historical Trust